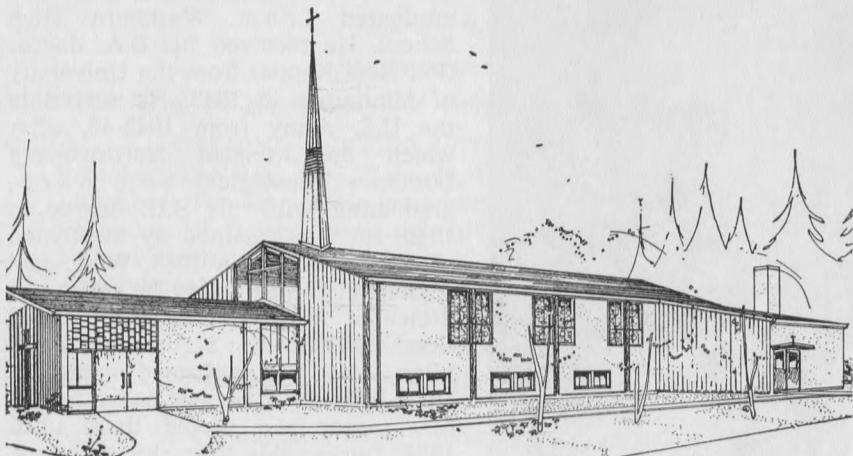


The Parish Messenger

A PERSONAL VISITOR TO THE PARISHES

JUNE, 1962

GIMLI, MANITOBA



Gimli Lutheran Church
WELCOMES YOU



REV. L. NADIGER
Host Pastor

to the

*78th Annual
Convention*

of the

ICELANDIC
LUTHERAN SYNOD

June 3-6, 1962

GIMLI, MANITOBA

U.L.C.A. Representative



REV. G. L. LUNDQUIST

came self-supporting. From November, 1956 to July, 1959 he served Redeemer Church, Milwaukee, Wisconsin. On Aug. 1st, 1959 he became president of the Northwest Synod and has held that post since then.

Other Activities — 1952-53 member of Synods' Stewardship Committee; 1954 member of Synods' Constitution Committee; 1954-59 Secretary of Northwest Synod and member of Synods' Executive Committee. He served as member of the Planning Committee of the Home for the Aged, Milwaukee, Wisconsin.

Greetings from The Host Pastor

This is the second time that our congregation has had the privilege of hosting the Synod Convention in our new building. We look forward to this opportunity as much we did the last, expecting the same joys in rendering this service as we did on the previous occasion. Our building is a little older now, but we extend to you the same warm welcome, and hope that all things are ready and in order, that we may offer you the very best that we have, and place all our facilities at your disposal. We join with all our Synod brethren in prayer to God for a successful closing convention, and ask for his guidance in all our deliberations.

PASTOR L. NADIGER

78th Annual Convention Agenda

ICELANDIC SYNOD, U.L.C.A.

GIMLI LUTHERAN CHURCH

Gimli, Manitoba

JUNE 3 - 6, 1962

Sunday, June 3rd

4:00 - 6:00 p.m. — Registration of Delegates and Guests.

7:30 p.m. — OPENING SERVICE WITH HOLY COMMUNION.

Preacher: The Rev. V. J. Eylands, D.D.

Liturgists: The Rev. H. Gudmundsson, The Rev. L. Nadiger

Reception of Pastor Frank Schmitt

Formal Opening of Synod

Appointment of Committees

Monday, June 4th

9:00 a.m. — Devotions — The Rev. W. Becker.

Reports of Officers — (a) President (b) Secretary (c) Treasurer.

Reports of Committees:— (a) Credentials (b) Finance (c) Stewardship (d) Reference and Council.

Special Order:— Proposed "CONFERENCE OF ICELANDIC CHURCHES IN AMERICA".

12:15 p.m. — Lunch

2:00 p.m. — Devotions — The Rev. R. Magnuson.

Roll Call.

Business Session: Report of the Lutheran Women's League.

Report of Parish Education Committee.

2:30 p.m. — Special Order — The Rev. George L. Lundquist, D.D., U.L.C.A. Representative.

3:30 p.m. — Coffee Break.

4:00 p.m. — Business Session:

Report of Betel Home Foundation.

Report of the Evangelism and Social Action Committee.

Report of Viking Luther League.

Report on Foreign Missions.

Report on Church Vocations.

5:30 p.m. — Adjourn.

6:00 p.m. — Supper.

8:00 p.m. — Devotions — The Rev. D. Johnson.

Musical Selections.

Presentation on Parish Education.

Address: "Reflections and Reminiscences" — Mr. S. O. Bjerring.

78th Annual Convention Agenda

Tuesday, June 5th,

7:30 p.m. — Lutheran Laymen's Breakfast.

Program Chairman — N. O. Bardal.

Speaker—The Rev. George Lundquist, D.D., U.L.C.A. Representative.

9:00 a.m. — Devotions — The Rev. W. Bergman.

9:30 a.m. — Special Order.

10:00 a.m. — Business Session:

Report on Lutheran World Action.

Report on the Parish Messenger.

Report on Sameiningin.

Report of Convention Committee on Reference and Counsel.

Report of Convention Committee on Stewardship.

Report of Convention Committee on Finances.

12:15 p.m. Noon — Lunch.

2:00 p.m. — Devotions — The Rev. Ingthor Indridason.

2:15 p.m. — Roll Call.

Business Session:

Report of Convention Committee on Parish Education.

Report of Convention Committee on Evangelism.

Report of Convention Committee on Youth Work.

Report of Convention Committee on Publications.

Report of Convention Committee on L.W.A. and C.L.W.A.

3:30 p.m. — Coffee.

4:00 p.m. — Business Session:

Report of Convention Committee on Foreign Missions.

Report of Convention Committee on Church Vocations.

Report of Convention Committee on Proposed Conference of Icelandic Churches in America.

Unfinished Business.

5:30 p.m. — Adjourn.

6:00 p.m. — Supper.

8:00 p.m. — Devotions by The Rev. Norman B. Nelson.

Presentation on Evangelism.

Address: The Rev. George L. Lundquist, D.D., U.L.C.A. Representative
Musical Selections.

Business Session:

Unfinished Business.

New Business.

Official Closing of Synod.

The Birth of A Church

by Rev. Walter Becker
St. Stephen's Lutheran Church, St. James, Man.

When the Icelandic Synod meets in Gimli early in June, it will be something like a "Bachelor Dinner" held before a wedding. There is a note of sadness in such a dinner as the bachelor meets with his friends for the last time as a bachelor. Everything will be changed after that and many old freedoms will be gone. At the same time the predominant note is one of joy as the bachelor looks forward to life with his bride — a life of infinitely wider horizons.

There will be sadness in the hearts of many faithful members of our Synod when, for the last time, we meet as a separate Synod of the U.L.-C.A. but surely that sadness will be overshadowed by the anticipation of the widening of horizons within the new Lutheran Church in America. God will open many new doors to us and face us with greater challenges than we have ever known before. How large a share we, the former Icelandic Synod members, will have in the work of the new Church will depend upon the interest we show in the work, the sacrifices we are willing to grasp. We have many dedicated and talented men in our Synod who by God's grace, will be in a position to serve the new Church well. We urge all our people to pray that God may bless the decision we made when we voted for the merger and show us where we may make our best contribution.

For those who may not, as yet, be sure just who is merging to form the "Lutheran Church in America", let us just repeat that information here. During the last week in June of this year, in Detroit, Michigan, four Lutheran Churches will hold closing conventions—and then will merge into one new church called the "Lutheran Church in America".

The four Lutheran Church bodies are the following: our own United Lutheran Church in America of which we are one of many Synods, the Augustana Evangelical Lutheran Church of Swedish background, the American Evangelical Lutheran Church of Danish background, and the Finnish Evangelical Lutheran Church, or Suomi Synod. Barriers of language and tradition and distance have now melted to the point where these bodies can become one in a fervent desire to strengthen the witness of Lutheran Christians in America and serve the Lord more effectively as one body of over 3,000,000 members.

What will this mean for us as a Synod? It will mean that we will give up our identity as the Icelandic Synod in order to become one with the other Synods of the four merging bodies. Our closing convention will be held in Gimli the first week in June. In order that Icelandic interests and traditions may not be lost, an Icelandic Conference is being established. This conference will be concerned with Icelandic interests. It will not have legal powers within the new Church.

The Canada District of the new Church will cover a wide territory and will therefore be divided into three Synods. Our Manitoba congregations will be part of the Central Canada Synod, covering Manitoba, Saskatchewan and Ontario up to the Lakehead. On the West of us there

The Birth of A Church

will be formed the Alberta-British Columbia Synod to be named the Western Canada Synod. To the East of us the Canada Synod will be enlarged to include the present Nova Scotia Synod. The Minneota parish will belong to the Minnesota Synod; the Mountain parish, to the Red River Valley Synod; the Vancouver congregation, to the Western Canada Synod; the Seattle congregation, to the Pacific Northwest Synod.

Since August 14-15, 1961, a Commission made up of representatives of the merging bodies at present existing in Western Canada, have been holding meetings to try to prepare for the coming merger on our own territory. The writer has been a representative of the Icelandic Synod at the last two meetings. This Commission, commonly known as the "Little Joint Commission on Lutheran Unity" will meet once more on June 12, at Saskatoon. The proposals made by this group are only "proposals" and all its actions will have to be ratified at the Constituting Conventions of the two Synods involved, the Central Canada Synod and the Western Canada Synod.

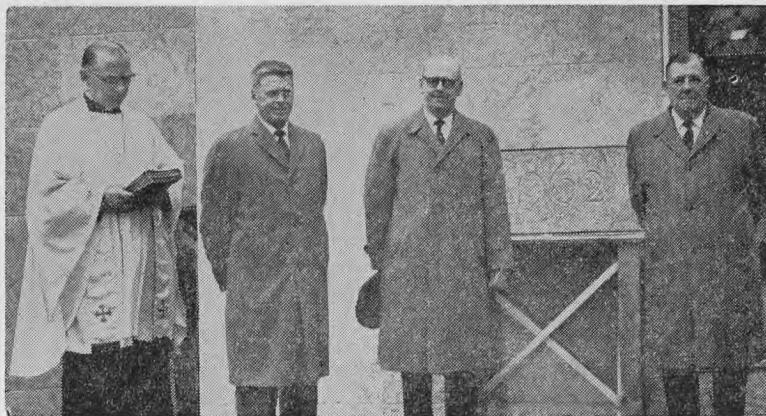
The constituting conventions of the two Synods above will be held during the last week of August. The Western Canada Synod will meet at Edmonton. The Central Canada Synod will meet in Winnipeg, and so far as we know, at our own First Lutheran Church, the oldest Lutheran congregation in the city. Dr. V. J. Eylands, our president, is a member of the committee planning this convention.

The new Synods will, in turn, be divided into Districts if the proposals of the L.J.C.L.U., are accepted. The Western Canada Synod will be divided into the Northern Alberta District, the Southern Alberta District, and the British Columbia District. The Central Canada Synod will be divided into the Saskatchewan District, the Western Manitoba District and the Eastern Manitoba District (including the Ontario congregations in our Synod). Space does not permit to enumerate the various congregations involved. It may be of interest to note that the Winnipeg Churches of the merging bodies will be divided with some in the Western Manitoba District and some in the Eastern Manitoba and Ontario District.

The budgets for two synods in Western Canada are in a pretty nebulous state at present. Only approximate figures can be given. Including each Synod's apportionment to the new Lutheran Church in America and all foreseeable "home" expenses the Western Canada Synod might have a budget somewhere between \$145,000 and \$150,000 and the Central Canada Synod in the neighborhood of \$175,000 and \$180,000. We can count on one thing — our giving to the larger work of the Church will have to increase if we are to do our share. Lest the above figures are too frightening it might be well to remember that the Central Canada Synod will have at least 92 congregations and the Western Canada Synod about 90 congregations.

It is our hope and prayer that the members of the Icelandic Synod will not look upon the closing convention at Gimli only with sorrow—as those going to the burial service of their Synod, but also with a great deal of joy and enthusiasm as those witnessing the birth of a new Church.

First Lutheran Constructs Parish Hall



Ground Breaking Ceremony

The dreams of many decades is about to come true in the First Lutheran Church, Winnipeg. Their long awaited Parish Hall is in the process of construction. This building, which is approximately 70' x 40' is intended primarily for the work of the Sunday School and the young people's organizations. This is to be a two storey building. The lower part will be divided into numerous class rooms, but the upper part will be one large auditorium. The total cost of construction will be about \$100,000.00. Ground breaking ceremonies took place March 12th, but the corner stone laying service was conducted on Sunday, April 29th. The picture shows Pastor Eylands, E. Benjaminson construction foreman, H. S. Bjarnason, president of the Board of Trustees of the Church, and K. W. Johannson, former Board chairman at the time of the ground breaking service. It is expected the Parish Hall will be completed and ready for use early next September.

PARISH NEWS

Although Immanuel Church, Baldur has only had five services since the departure of Pastor Olson, we are very pleased to report that these have been well attended and we are gratefully indebted to Rev. Ingthor Indridason and Rev. Dr. Earl Treusch who gave of their time to preach to us on these occasions.

On April 5th, Mr. Jon A. Sveinson received his last rites from our Church. Rev. Johann Frederickson officiated. Mr. Sveinson was a life long and very active member of the Lutheran Church, having served in many capacities.

Our L.W.A. appeal received an excellent response and to date \$83.00 have been delivered to the treasurer.

1961 Benevolence Receipts

	Apportion- ment	Receipts	%	L.W.A.	Brynjolf- son Fund
First Lutheran, Wpg. ..	\$ 5,094.65	\$ 1,800.00	35.3	\$	\$ 700.00
Selkirk, Selkirk	3,548.50	660.48	18.6	154.10	
Gimli, Gimli	2,136.65	795.30	37.2	618.24	
Icelandic, Vancouver ..	2,015.85	300.00	14.9	25.00	
Braedra, Riverton	1,925.55	178.16	9.2	103.19	75.00
Calvary, Seattle	1,925.55	1,829.56	95.0	239.71	57.00
Ardal, Arbørg	1,661.00	750.07	45.1	87.75	
Lundar, Lundar	1,525.10	90.00	5.9	10.00	
St. Stephens, St. James	1,419.40	1,170.82	82.5	401.89	79.00
Vikur, Mountain	1,336.35	585.97	43.9	216.41	35.00
St. Pauls, Minneota	1,192.90	927.96	77.7	236.29	
Herdubreid, Langruth ..	1,109.85	270.00	24.3	15.00	91.00
St. Peters, Svold	951.30	258.10	27.1	31.50	33.00
Vidalin, Hensel	792.75	337.00	42.5	27.40	
Geysir, Geysir	724.80	44.75	6.2		
Breidvikur, Hnausa	732.35	23.15	3.2	3.00	
Concordia, Churchbridge	626.65	114.00	18.2		
Mikleyar, Hecla	596.45				
Glenboro, Glenboro	566.25	579.27	100	112.67	69.00
Fjalla, Milton	513.40			22.75	
Frikirkju, Bru	483.20	225.00	46.6	33.25	69.00
Arnes, Arnes	468.10	15.00	3.2		
Vidir, Vidir	453.00				
Immanuel, Baldur	385.05	385.05	100	111.50	87.00
Lincoln, Taunton	332.20	107.00	32.2		
Betel, Silver Bay	332.20				
Gudbrands, Morden	324.65				
Hallson, Hallson	309.55				
Vidines, Husavic	309.55				
Trinity, Pt. Roberts	196.30	196.30	100	71.44	
Frelys, Grund	181.20	181.20	100	25.00	89.00
Luther League				68.11	
Gardar, Gardar		65.22		142.39	79.35
Mrs. Kristin H. Olafson				5.00	5.00
Sundry					102.15
Totals	\$24,170.30	\$11,889.36	34.8	\$2,761.59	\$1,570.50